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Congress Has a Right to Know

REP. JOHN LINDSAY (R-N.Y.), has revived again his proposal that a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence be formed to serve as a watchdog over the nation's sprawling intelligence community.

The Central Intelligence Agency and its counterpart in the Defense Department perform functions that are important, secret and outside the bounds of legislative supervision. But what happened during the Cuban invasion fiasco stands as testimony that these agencies affect our foreign policy in their operations. The Senate and the House of Rep-

resentatives must have the right to know what goes on.

THE INTELLIGENCE agencies have opposed watchdog committees in the past because they were afraid information leaks would occur. But as Representative Lindsay has pointed out, Congress has similar committees on national defense and nuclear energy and the Nation's security has not been endangered.

One watchdog committee would not solve the problems created by secretive bureaucracies within representative government, but such a committee on intelligence would help to keep these agencies within bounds.

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